

Southeastern Parkway & Greenbelt

LOCATION STUDY



VDOT

A NEWSLETTER TO INFORM, EDUCATE AND INVOLVE THE PUBLIC

Issue 2

June 2005

Draft Environmental Impact Statement Ready for Public Review

In an effort to address some of the pressing transportation needs of the Chesapeake/Virginia Beach region, VDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have developed a report, known as the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), which identifies a range of alternatives and their potential environmental impacts. The DEIS analyzes five possible Candidate Build Alternatives and a No-Build Alternative.

WHERE TO READ THE DEIS

Copies of the DEIS have been placed on reserve for public review at several regional locations. The document is also available for review at the project Web site:

<http://www.virginiadot.org/sepg>. The following locations are listed by locality.

Chesapeake

All City Libraries

City Manager's Office
306 Cedar Road, Sixth Floor
P. O. Box 15225
Chesapeake, VA 23328

Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

The Regional Building
723 Woodlake Drive
Chesapeake, VA 23320

Virginia Beach

All City Libraries

City Manager's Office
2401 Courthouse Drive
Municipal Center, Building 1
Virginia Beach, VA 23452

VDOT Offices

VDOT Hampton Roads District

1700 North Main Street
Suffolk, VA 23434

VDOT Norfolk Residency

1992 South Military Highway
Chesapeake, VA 23320

Welcome!

This is the second in a series of newsletters developed to keep you informed and involved in the Southeastern Parkway and Greenbelt (SEPG) Location Study. This edition is intended to help prepare you for the public hearings to be held in July 2005, and to provide a synopsis of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

Inside you will find detailed information about the DEIS, including the purpose and need for the SEPG, an overview of the candidate build alternatives under consideration, and a summary of potential environmental impacts. You will also find information about the public hearings scheduled for July 11 & 13, 2005.

Your involvement in the study process is important to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). We encourage you to visit the project web site (<http://www.virginiadot.org/sepg>) for detailed information on the project and instructions on how to be added to the project mailing list.



INSIDE: How to Comment on the Study | Study Schedule | Study Area Map | Alternatives Considered | Summary of Impacts

Southeastern Parkway and Greenbelt: Problems to Be Solved

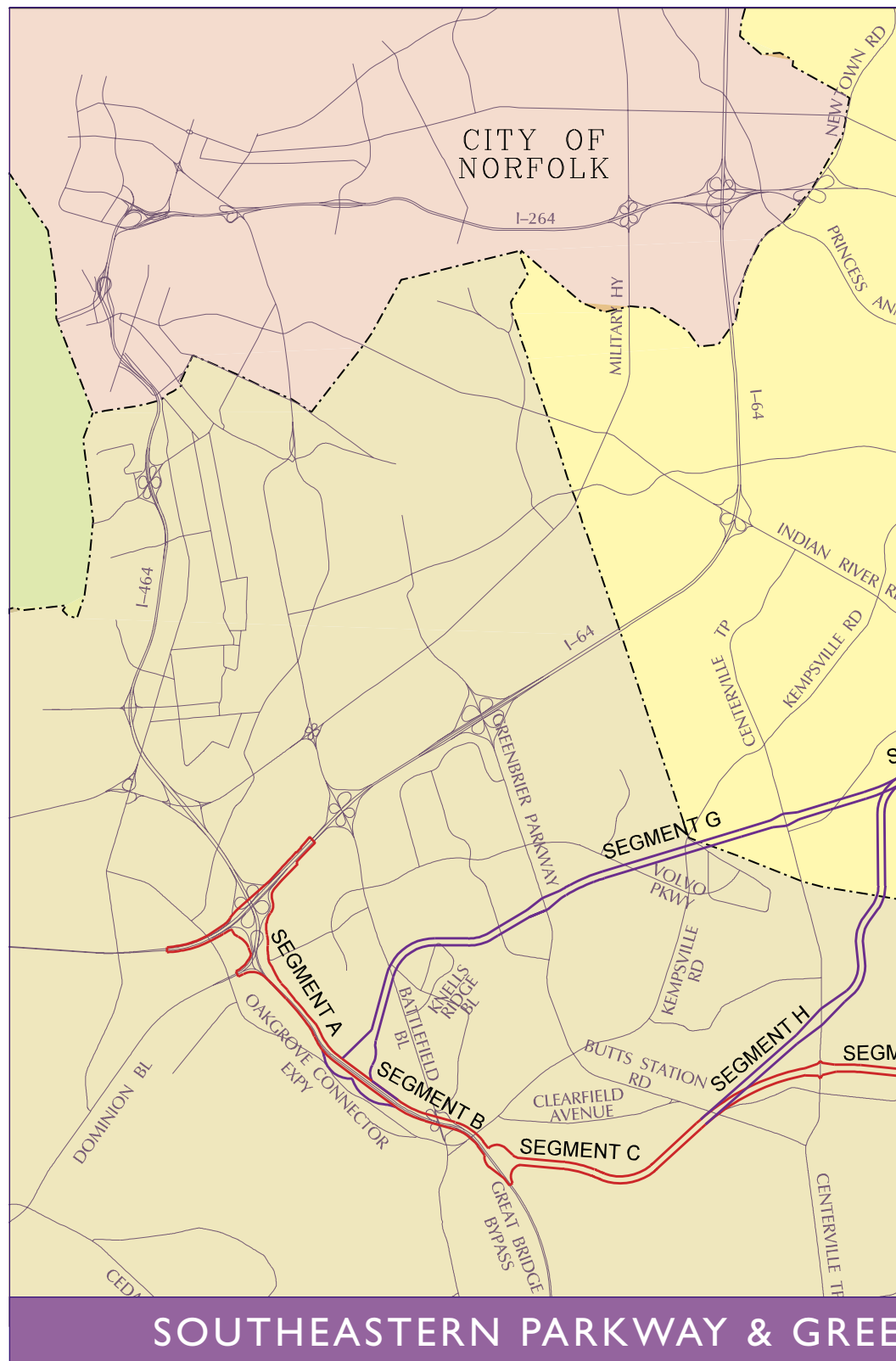
The purpose and need of the proposed Southeastern Parkway and Greenbelt involves the following key elements:

- Improving capacity to accommodate forecasted traffic volumes, including peak season tourism traffic;
- Provide an alternative east-west connection between Chesapeake and Virginia Beach;
- Enhance access to one of the area's largest employers, NAS Oceana (including Dam Neck Annex);
- Provide an alternate hurricane evacuation and emergency response route;
- Provide a linkage between multi-nodal centers of employment, retail, commercial, and residential development as identified in the transportation plans of the two cities.

Alternatives Considered

The identification and evaluation of the alternatives was an important step of the study. Alternatives that met the study's purpose and need were given consideration. After collecting and analyzing detailed information, the wide range of options were narrowed to a list of preliminary build alternatives. The mass transit and transportation system management options, which included bus and rail transit improvements and minor roadway enhancements, were considered and rejected. After preliminary analyses, five of the build alternatives were selected for further consideration.

The following alternatives will be presented at the public hearings and are described in greater detail in Chapter 2 of the DEIS. Your comments on these alternatives are very important.



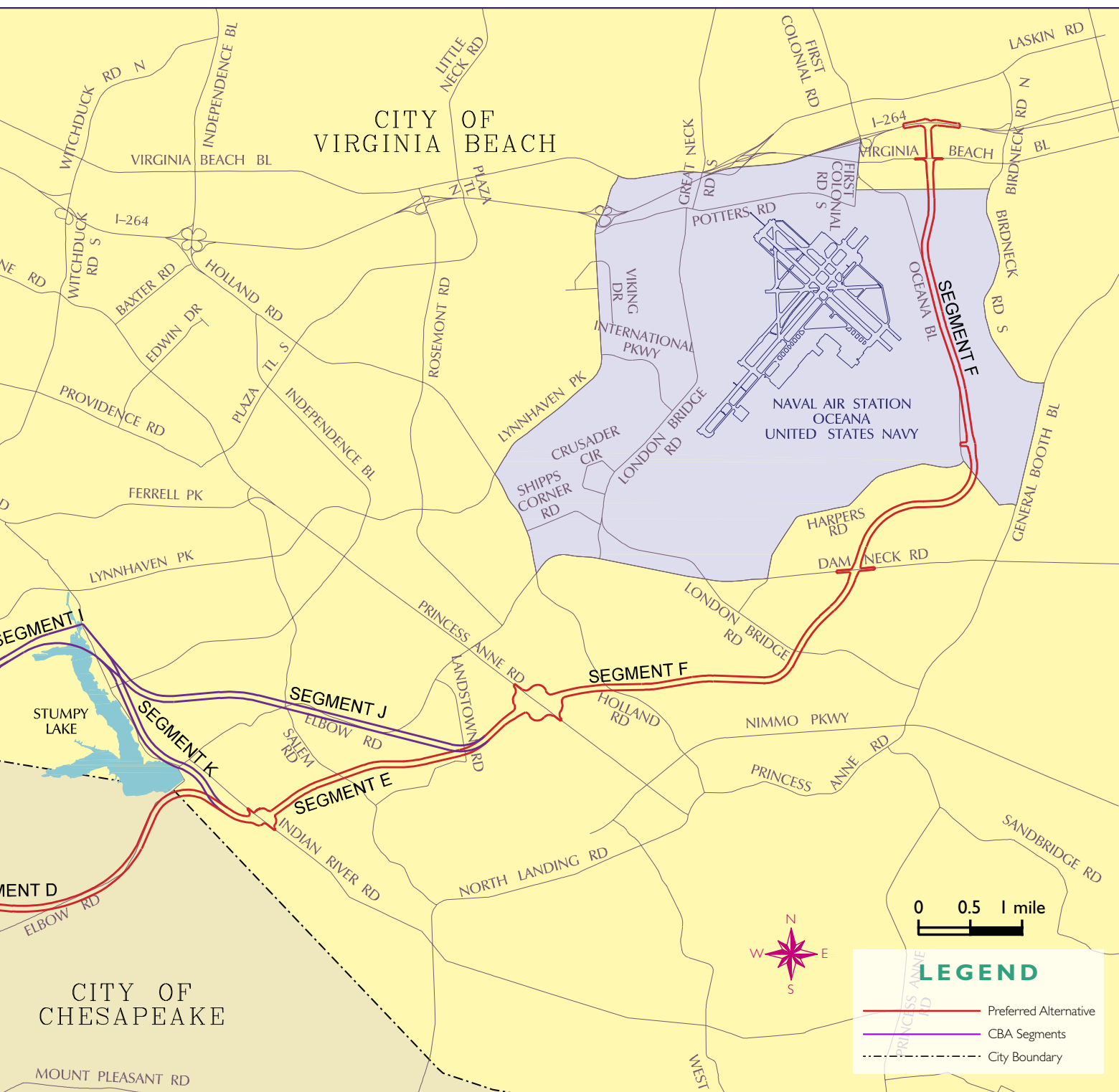
Build Alternatives

The Build Alternative entails constructing a new roadway on new alignment. It consists of eleven segments, labeled A through K, which combine to form the Preferred, Stumpy North, North, North K, and Stumpy South CBAs.

- **Preferred:** This alternative is south of Stumpy Lake and consists of

Segments A, B, C, D, E, and F. It is a total of 21.4 miles long.

- **Stumpy North:** This Alternative is west and north of Stumpy Lake, and consists of Segments A, B, C, H, I, J, and F. It is 22.8 miles long.
- **North:** This Alternative passes to the north of Stumpy Lake. It is 21.3 miles long and consists of Segments A, G, I, J, and F.



HAMPTON BELT STUDY AREA: CANDIDATE BUILD ALTERNATIVES

- **North K:** This Alternative passes north and east of Stumpy Lake, and consists of Segments A, G, I, K, E, and F. It is 22.2 miles in length.
- **Stumpy South:** This Alternative passes to the west, north, and then east of Stumpy Lake. It is the longest alternative, at 23.6 miles. It is comprised of Segments A, B, C, H, I, K, E, and F.

No Build Alternative

Under the No-Build Alternative, the SEPG would not be built. Only improvements already listed in the Hampton Roads 2026 Regional Transportation Plan would be

built. Although the No-Build Alternative does not address the problems identified in the purpose and need, it has been retained for comparison purposes.

Visit www.VirginiaDOT.org/SEPG for detailed information about the alternatives considered



Southeastern Parkway & Greenbelt

PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 11 & 13

LOCATION STUDY

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Your Participation is Important

The purpose of the public hearing is to present the findings of the SEPG Location Study and to obtain input from the community. We invite you to review the DEIS and to share your views at the public hearings, where you will have an opportunity for one-on-one discussions with study team members. After reviewing exhibits and talking with the study team, you may submit written comments or have your comments recorded by a court reporter during the hearings. Comments received during the public comment period will be summarized and presented to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for their consideration. You do not need to attend the public hearing to make a comment.

HOW TO COMMENT ON THE STUDY

Submit Written Comments

You may submit written comments at the public hearings, by mail or by e-mail. All written comments must be post-marked or e-mailed by July 23 in order to be included as part of the public hearing record.

Public Hearings - Look for a comment table in the meeting area where you can sit and complete a comment form. Drop your form in the comment box before leaving. You may also provide oral comments to a court reporter who will record them for the study's record.

E-mail - Send your comments via e-mail to SEPG@VirginiaDOT.org.

Mail - Use the comment form included with this newsletter, pick one up at the public hearing, or download one from the study Web site: www.VirginiaDOT.org/SEPG. Completed forms should be mailed to Mr. Ken Wilkinson, VDOT Environmental Division, 1401 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Public hearings to gather citizen input will be held July 11 & 13, 2005.
- Comments for the public hearing record are due July 23, 2005.
- Input from the public hearings and local governments and the results of the study will be submitted to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) for their consideration.
- The CTB reviews public and agency comments in addition to other available information and adopts a preferred alternative.
- A Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) is prepared to document the action of the CTB, respond to comments on the DEIS and discuss the measures to mitigate impacts.
- The Federal Highway Administration signs the FEIS and issues a Record of Decision.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DEIS	SPRING 2005
Public Hearing	JULY 11 & 13, 2005
CTB Action	FALL 2005
Final EIS	SPRING 2006

Public Hearings Schedule

Two identical public hearings will be held throughout the study area to provide easy accessibility for all interested citizens. You are invited to attend anytime between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. to speak to the VDOT study team and to submit comments in writing or privately to a court reporter. No formal presentation is scheduled.

Virginia Beach

Monday, July 11, 2005

Virginia Beach Convention Center
1000 19th St.
Virginia Beach

Chesapeake

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Chesapeake Conference Center
900 Greenbrier Circle
Chesapeake

Both hearing locations are accessible to persons with disabilities. VDOT ensures nondiscrimination in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For special assistance or information contact the Hampton Roads District at (757) 925-2500 or TDD 711.

VDOT offers a Relocation Assistance Program in accordance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-646) as amended in 1987.



SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

The following table presents a matrix of potential impacts associated with each of the Candidate Build and No Build Alternatives within the Southeastern Parkway and Greenbelt Study Area. These impacts are described in further detail in Chapters 2 and 4 of the DEIS.

Assessment Factor	Issue	Alternative					
		No-Build	Preferred	Stumpy N	North	North K	Stumpy S
General	Length: miles	0	21.4	22.8	21.3	22.0	23.6
Relative Effectiveness in Meeting Purpose and Need	Preliminary Cost (Billions of Dollars, Year 2011 Values)	0	\$1.01	\$1.35	\$1.28	\$1.91	\$1.80
	Average Congested Speed (mph)	23.7	26.7	26.3	26.3	26.3	26.3
	Reduction in Total # of Accidents	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Reduction in Traffic Fatalities	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Improve System Linkage and Capacity	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Improve Hurricane Evacuations	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Land Use Impacts	Improve Economic Development	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Land Use Plan Consistency	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
	Farmlands Impacts: Acres	unknown	126	92	109	109	92
	Urban Land Use Impacts: Acres						
	• Commercial	unknown	16	18	30	28	16
	• Industrial	unknown	14	18	37	37	18
	• Institutional	unknown	69	75	110	105	69
	• Residential	unknown	179	225	330	344	240
Social Impacts	Environmental Justice (Disproportionate Impacts)						
	• Low-Income Populations	unknown	No	No	No	No	No
	• Minority Populations	unknown	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
	Relocations						
	• # of Families	unknown	153	395	1056	980	319
	• # of Businesses	unknown	13	13	35	35	13
	• # of Non-Profits	unknown	1	3	6	5	2
	• Total	unknown	167	411	1097	1020	334
	Community Facility Impacts						
	• Schools	unknown	0	1	3	2	0
	• Churches	unknown	5	5	4	6	7
	• Parks and Recreational Facilities	unknown	0	3	4	3	2
	• Cemeteries	unknown	2	1	1	3	3
	Community Cohesion (# Neighborhoods Disrupted)	unknown	16	28	40	34	22
Cultural Resources Impacts†	# NRHP Listed Sites	unknown	2	1	1	1	1
	# NRHP Potentially Eligible Sites	unknown	7	6	3	6	9
Public Parklands	Section 4(f) Parkland Encroachments	unknown	0	2	3	2	2
Air Quality Impacts	Sites that Exceed NAAQS for CO	unknown	0	0	0	0	0
Noise Impacts (Total FHWA and VA requirements)	# of Sites that Approach or Exceed NAC (Type 1)	unknown	50	50	13	13	50
	# of Sites with Substantial Increase (Type 2)	unknown	94	121	781	738	98
Hazardous Waste Impacts	Potential Sites Impacted	unknown	2	2	2	2	2
Visual Impacts	Adverse Affect on Visually Sensitive Areas	unknown	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Environmental Impacts	Forested Impacts: Acres	unknown	189	170	183	199	186
	Wild and Scenic Rivers Affected	unknown	No	No	No	No	No
	Groundwaters Affected	unknown	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Floodplains Impacted: Acres^	unknown	114	135	102	107	140
	Wetlands Impacted: Acres^	unknown	238	247	225	255	277
	Waters of the US Impacted: linear feet^	unknown	7505	5717	6184	7498	7031
	Federally Threatened and Endangered Species Present						
	• Bald Eagle	unknown	No	No	No	No	No
	• West Indian manatee	unknown	No	No	No	No	No

† Includes both Architectural and Archaeological sites

^ Before bridging

Mr. Ken Wilkinson
Virginia Department of Transportation
1401 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

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PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED

4 p.m. – 7 p.m. at both locations

Virginia Beach – Monday, July 11, 2005

Virginia Beach Convention Center
1000 19th St.
Virginia Beach

Chesapeake – Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Chesapeake Conference Center
900 Greenbrier Circle
Chesapeake



Stay informed

- Visit our study Web site
- Review the Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- Share your comments with the study team

Study Contact Information

Study Manager: Mr. Ken Wilkinson
Virginia Department of Transportation
1401 E. Broad St.
Richmond, VA 23219
Attention: Southeastern Parkway and
Greenbelt Location Study

E-mail: SEPG@VirginiaDOT.org
Web site: www.VirginiaDOT.org/SEPG